

HISTORIC CRIMES and MYSTERIES



THE BRASS RING.

Anna Holzman, fifty years old and with the face and manners of a Gypsy, lived in a rented house in the outskirts of Augsburg. Anna moved in a mysterious way and her neighbors didn't know what to make of her. She was always asking charity, for one thing, yet it was generally believed that she had saved a large sum of money and had it hidden away somewhere.

The house she occupied was larger than she needed, so she furnished a large room and took two lodgers, young men named George Rauschmaler and Joseph Steiner.

It was in April, 1821, that the neighbors began to wonder where Anna was. It occurred to them suddenly that they hadn't seen her for two weeks. Inquiry revealed the fact that George and Joseph had changed their lodgings, and they were hunted up and questioned. They had no idea where the woman was, they said. She had disappeared suddenly and they supposed she would be back in a day or two; but time went on and she didn't return, so they left the house, after reporting her absence to the landlord. They were not much surprised by her disappearance, they said, as she was forever doing strange and unaccountable things. The neighbors knew that this was true, so no suspicion was aroused.

Anna's brother appeared on the scene, and, after going through the house with the officers, declared that many small articles had been stolen. Here proceedings halted. It seemed impossible to shed a ray of light upon the mystery. Rauschmaler and Steiner were questioned over and over, but all that they could tell was unimportant.

Time passes at Augsburg, as elsewhere, and a new year was ushered in before a solution of the problem appeared. The house occupied by Anna had stood vacant since her disappearance and one day in January, 1822, a landlady of the neighborhood wanted to dry some linen, and it occurred to her that the garret of the vacant house would be a good place.

She went into the house shyly but calmly, with her basket, and ten minutes later she emerged from it as though shot from a gun. She screamed "murder!" at the top of her voice, and the neighborhood was aroused. She had made a hideous discovery in the old garret, and when she had told her story the officers were sent for and a procession climbed the stairs of the Holzman home, and proceeded into the attic. There the body of the missing woman was found, but in such a condition that even the officers, who were old soldiers, were shocked.

The unfortunate woman had been dismembered. Portions of her body

were found in an old heap of rags in one corner; another part in the chimney; another under a loose board in the floor. For some reason decomposition had not occurred, and it was easy to identify the scattered body as that of Anna Holzman, although the head had disappeared.

A medical officer found under a heap of rubbish the left arm of the woman. It was doubled together at the elbow joint, and when he tried to straighten it, a brass ring fell to the floor. It was the first and only valuable clue to the murderer. The doctor reasoned that it had fallen from his finger while he worked, and had been held in place on the arm by muscular contraction. The ring was turned over to the magistrate who took charge of the case.

Steiner had disappeared, but Rauschmaler still lived in town and he was arrested at once, although there was no other reason for connecting him with the crime than the fact that he was living in the house when the woman disappeared. He was not at all disturbed by his arrest. In fact, being possessed of a sense of humor, he seemed much amused, and remarked that the stupidity of the police was ridiculous. He was taken to the morgue and shown the remains of the woman, and muttered some words of sorrow and sympathy. Not by the quiver of an eyelid did he show any symptom of guilt or uneasiness. The officers who accompanied him on this grisly errand were convinced that he was innocent.

He was examined over and over by the magistrate, and he never varied from his original story, except that he

He broke down and made a full confession.

He had faith in the stories that Anna Holzman was rich, and had a large sum of money concealed in her house. He watched her for a long time, and finally concluded that she kept her money in a strong chest which was always carefully locked. His original idea was merely to steal the money, but he concluded after a time that this couldn't be done without removing the woman. So he waited for an opportunity.

One day Steiner went out to be gone a considerable time, and Rauschmaler felt that his chance had come. He stepped up behind the poor woman and placed his big muscular hands about her neck. She was small and weak, and died in his hands with but little struggle. Then he carried the body to the garret and dismembered it and concealed the fragments, where they had been found. The head he threw into the canal. That head had been found by a farmer shortly after the crime, but he threw it back into the canal, fearing it would get him into trouble.

Having committed one of the most cold-blooded murders ever recorded in criminal history, Rauschmaler went to the chest to get his reward. The only valuables in the chest were eight kreutzers. So he had done his hideous work for a few coppers.

Steiner was found and testified for the prosecution and Rauschmaler was convicted. He was sentenced to stand in the pillory for several hours, and then to have his head cut off with a sword. Appeals of clemency were



She Screamed "Murder" at the Top of Her Voice.

admitted having stolen several small articles before leaving the woman's house. He was desperately hard up at the time, was his excuse.

At last the magistrate seemed discouraged. He had laid all kinds of traps for George, and they had failed. The man couldn't be confused or rattled by any manner of questioning.

So the magistrate said: "I believe you are guilty, but it seems impossible to prove it, so I suppose you must be turned loose, but for the present the court will retain these articles of yours."

The articles were certain cheap pieces of jewelry which had been found in Rauschmaler's room after his arrest. Among them the magistrate had placed the brass ring.

George protested at once against this injustice. The articles were his own, and the court had no right to keep them. He made a great fuss, and the magistrate looked embarrassed and dubious.

"You are positive these things are your own?" he inquired, indifferently.

"Absolutely," replied George.

"That brass ring, for instance?"

"It is mine. I wore it for years."

George slipped it on his finger, which it fitted loosely.

"You have confessed!" said the magistrate, sternly.

The facts were explained to him, and the dilemma he found himself in did what all the questioning and badgering had failed to accomplish.

made so the court generously remitted the pillory sentence, and nothing more serious than decapitation happened to him.

The probability is that the crime would never have been brought home to him but for that worthless brass ring.

The Dullness of Routine.

It is remarkable how few events or situations permitting mental exercises there are in our histories; how little exercised we have been in our minds; how few experiences we have had. I would fain be assured that I am growing apathetic and frankly, though my very growth disturbs this dull equanimity—though it be with struggle through long, dark, muggy nights or seasons of gloom. It would be well if all our lives were a divine tragedy instead of this trivial comedy or farce. When at rare intervals, some thought visits one, as perchance he is walking on a railroad, then indeed the cars go by without his hearing them. But soon by some inexorable law, our life goes by and the cars return.—Thoreau.

Extinction of the Buffalo.

The red man hunted and killed quite often for the mere pleasure of slaying. Herds were driven over cliffs for the wild sport of the thing, or else were hunted into pounds and literally wiped out of existence. The advance of the white man did not help matters, and finally the buffalo, as a wild creature, was exterminated.

Too Much for Father.

Miss Pansy Pyettin's father says that if she gives another party he's going to leave home. He's perfectly willing to grind the ice cream freezer all afternoon, but he draws the line at having to put in half the night winding up the phonograph.

For Packing Tree Seedlings.

Oiled paper has been found to be an excellent material for packing tree seedlings, when shipped in crates. When crates are not used, paper-lined burlap makes a particularly satisfactory wrapper.

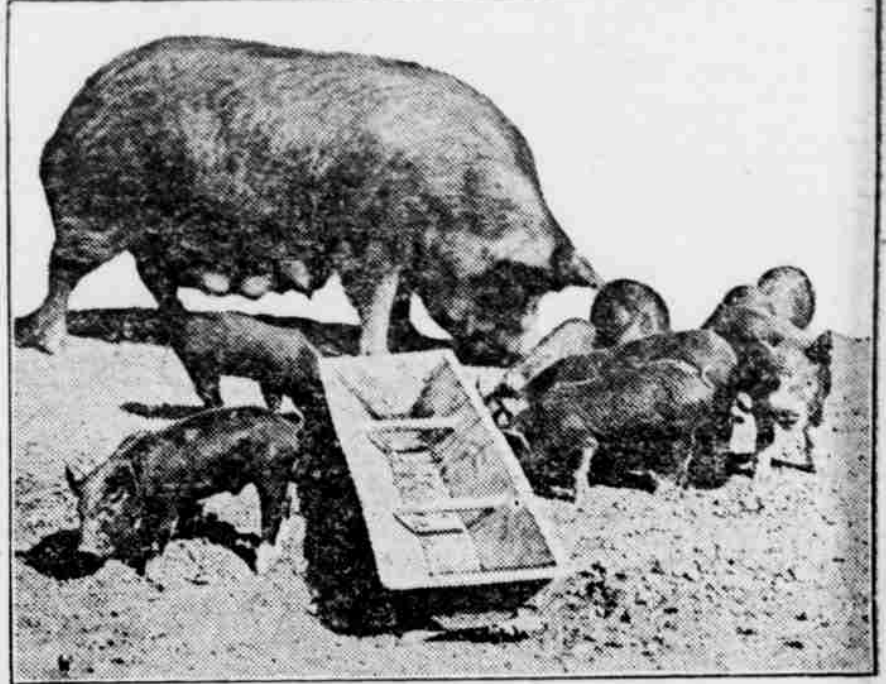
Amplified Described.

"What kind of a fellow is he?" "Oh, he's the kind of a fellow who goes out for a walk with you and then tells you how democratic he is—not afraid of being seen with anybody."—Yale Record.

Improved Thumb Tacks.

Recently invented thumb tacks are provided with handles to help in withdrawing them, which fold down into the heads of the tacks so as to be out of the way when not needed.

INDIVIDUAL QUALITIES ARE IMPORTANT



Purebred Sow and Healthy Litter.

(By W. L. RIZZARD, Department of Animal Husbandry, Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater.)

A good breeder must be a good feeder, as this is the basis of the business. You can take good animals that have been developed for a few generations until established in great size and quality combined so that the offspring inherits them. Then place them in the hands of a poor and indifferent breeder and feeder and in a few generations you will have them back into their original position, losing all of the improvement and gain.

Good blood is not everything. Not every animal that can furnish a pedigree is desirable for a breeder, though his breeding be of the very best. His individual qualities are the important part, and should equal the excellence of his pedigree. There may be exceptions. Many men will hang onto a sow because she has a splendid pedigree, when in conformation she is not a good representative of the breed. Usually cases of this kind are a detriment to the herd.

On the other hand, those who think a pedigree is of little value will never get very far in purebred live stock production. A pedigree is of very little

value to a buyer of breeding animals unless he knows something of the individuals found among the ancestry named. The hog breeder must know the bloodlines that are popular in the breed he is producing, and those that are doing the most to build up the breed.

Remember, the better the breeding stock the better are the chances for improving the individuals in the herd, and thereby building up a good herd. Hence the greater opportunity for success in the hog business.

Then again, you must feed and care for what you have already, or they become finer in spite of all you can do and will soon go back to the scrub stage. Do not cross breeds. The best cross for any breed is the feed-bred.

All feeding must be done with good judgment. Changing feed must be done gradually. Avoid radical changes. If a ration change is made, it is liable to disturb the condition of the animal, and if she is a sow suckling pigs, it is very likely to be a serious danger to the litter. Therefore, make all changes of feed carefully, moderately and gradually, so as not to injure the litter or sow.

RULES FOR DRAGGING ROADS

Illinois Highway Commission Gives Instruction on Care and Maintenance of Highways.

The following rules are given by the Illinois highway commission:

Use a light drag.
Haul it over the road at an angle so that a small amount of earth is pushed to the center of the road.
Drive the team at a walk.
Ride on the drag; do not walk.
Begin at one side of the road, returning up the opposite side.
Drag the road as soon after every rain as possible, but not when the mud is in such a condition as to stick to the drag.

Do not drag a dry road.
Drag whenever possible at all seasons of the year.

The width of traveling way to be maintained by the drag should be from 18 to 20 feet; first drag a little more than the width of a single wheel track, then gradually increase until desired width is obtained.

Always drag a little earth toward the center of the road until it is raised from 10 to 12 inches above the edges of the traveled way.

If the drag cuts too much shorten the hitch.

The amount of earth that the drag will carry along can be very considerably controlled by the driver, accordingly as he stands near the cutting end or away from it.

When the roads are first dragged after a very muddy spell the wagons should drive, if possible, to one side until the roadway has a chance to freeze or partially to dry out.

The best results from dragging are obtained only by repeated application. Remember that constant attention is necessary to maintain an earth road in its best condition.

STORAGE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

No Method Quite So Effective as Setting Vessels Containing Them in Running Water.

No other method of storing dairy products—milk, cream and butter—is quite so effective in keeping them fresh as that of setting the vessels containing them in running water, either in a spring or some artificial device for the purpose. For the convenience of the housewife and the health and sanitation of the entire family, every farmer ought to manage to arrange such a place, which can be done at slight cost on every farm.

Watch Young Apple Trees.

Watch young apple grafts closely to see that they are not choked out by sprouts that come out below the union. Such suckers should be removed as soon as they appear.

Exercise for Sows.

The brood sows must have exercise every day.

CONTROL OF SORGHUM SMUT

Treating Solution Made by Mixing of Formalin With Water—Sprinkling Seed Is Easy.

Kernel smut of the sorghum crops may be controlled by the same treatment given to kill oats smut. The treating solution is made by mixing a pint of formalin (also called formaldehyde) with 30 to 40 gallons of water. The seed may either be sprinkled or immersed. Sprinkling is easier and if done carefully is just as effective. In the sprinkling method the seed is spread out on a clean floor and the solution is applied with a sprinkling can. The seed is stirred while being sprinkled. When each seed is moistened the seed is piled up and covered tightly with wet sacks, blankets or canvas for several hours. Then it is spread out to dry. Successive lots are handled in the same way.

Treated seed should not come in contact with containers that have held untreated seed, unless those containers have also been treated with the solution. Sorghum smut causes a very

large annual loss. It affects all of the sorghums except milo.

Milo is said not to be affected by smut, and milo seed, therefore, does not require treatment.

Milk Is Good for Chickens.

Feed all of the spare milk, such as buttermilk, separator milk, and clabbered milk to the chicks. They relish it and it is good for them. It matters not if it is sour provided it be clean.

Geese are Profitable.

Raising geese for market is an important industry and has proved very profitable. It stands midway in importance between the chicken and turkey industries.

Pinch Seed Onions.

Onions going to seed should have the tops pinched or the bulbs will not develop further.

Get Ahead of Weevil.

Do not let the alfalfa weevil get your crop of hay. Cut it before the weevil spoils it.

Asters and Grapes.

A birthday celebration in a country cottage took place when the purple asters grew in profusion by the roadsides. The day called for a birthday cake, and for decorations for the table. The asters furnished the latter, and their lovely tint suggested the coloring for the cake. This was procured by the use of grape juice. The bottled juice was used, being added a little at a time to a beaten icing of white of egg and sugar. When the cake was put on the table it was surrounded by a wreath of asters.

Beaches.

Beaches are stretches of land bordered on one side by the ocean and on the other side by summer hotels and amusement concessions. Beaches are covered by sand, pebbles, seaweed, ocean breezes, rude stares and bathing girls. The waves of the sea touch the beach on one side, and the hotels and amusement schemes touch those who visit the beach on the other side. Love is frequently made upon the beach, but it is seldom any more enduring than any other house which

is reared upon sands. Some people visit the beaches because they enjoy the ocean breezes. Many people visit the beaches because they have nothing to do and because they know that there is less than nothing to do on a beach, and because they are sure that they can find any number of idle people to help them do it. Other people visit the beaches because they have nothing to wear, and because they know that next to nothing is worn on a beach, and because they are sure they will find any number of idle people wearing next to nothing.—Life.

No Compromise.

Luke was weighted down with a pair of feet of a size remarkable even for a man of his color in the polychrome of human kind. As he was sitting one day engaged in the game of chance which has to do with cubes of bone with black dots upon their sides, Sam approached. In his preoccupation, Sam trod upon the foot of Luke and remained planted there. Luke turned upon him indignantly. "Git off'n dat foot," he commanded. "Git off. Git all de way off!"